

3626

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Robert J. Beletsky
Title: IMPROVED BUCKLES WITH OVERRIDING LOCK
Serial No.: 09/370,388
Filed: 8/6/99
Art Unit: 3626
Examiner: James R. Brittain



Docket: 01-0941-516
Date: April 7, 2000

123600 MAIL ROOM

SEP 13 2001

RECEIVED

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find:

- (x) Acknowledgement Postcard
- (x) 2 Cover sheets w/Certificate of First Class Mailing
- (x) Response to Restriction Requirement

Please charge any additional fees and credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-0083. A duplicate of this cover sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John E. Wagner".

John E. Wagner, Reg. No. 17,496
LAW OFFICES OF JOHN E. WAGNER
3541 Ocean View Boulevard
Glendale, CA 91208
(818) 957-3340

CERTIFICATE OF FIRST CLASS MAIL (37 CFR 1.8)

I hereby certify that this Non-Fee Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box Non-Fee Amendment, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231-0001.

Signed

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John E. Wagner".

Dated

8/31/00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Robert J. Beletsky
Title: IMPROVED BUCKLES WITH OVERRIDING LOCK
Serial No.: 09/370,388
Filed: 8/6/99
Art Unit: 3626
Examiner: James R. Brittain



Docket: 01-0941-556
Date: August 31, 2000

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TO 3500 MAIL ROOM

SEP 13 2000

RECEIVED

Hy
9/14/00
ru

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT WITH TRAVERSE

Dear Sir:

In the Office Action dated August 1, 2000, the Examiner refers to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention, namely:

Species I comprising Figs. 1-6;

Species II comprising Figs. 7-17;

Species III comprising Figs. 18-27; and

Species IV comprising Figs. 28-36.

Applicant, with traverse, conditionally elects Species I comprising Figs. 1-6. Claims readable on the elected species are numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18.

Applicant's traverse on the grounds that the embodiments of Figs. 7-36 are alternate versions of same invention, namely, an edge-released, double-pronged latch member with different mechanisms to prevent unintended release of the prongs unless a manual release member is actuated.

Figs. 7-17 relates to an alternative means, a sliding lock for, locking the male member's prongs from inadvertent release.

Figs. 18-27 illustrate another alternative means, a rotary lock, for locking the male member's prongs from inadvertent release.

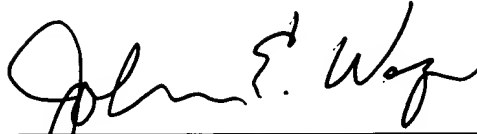
Finally, Figs. 28-36 disclose yet another alternative means, a button release on the female member, for locking the male member's prongs from inadvertent release.

Each of the inventions illustrated in Figs. 1-36 are related inventions.

It is submitted that allowance of any of the generic claims 1, 10, 14, 15, and 17 should allow all of these species to be considered allowed.

For the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the restriction requirement is improper and should be withdrawn and that an action on the merits of all claims be provided.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Wagner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

John E. Wagner, Reg. No. 17,496
LAW OFFICES OF JOHN E. WAGNER
3541 Ocean View Boulevard
Glendale, CA 91208
(818) 957-3340

JW:SB:mm

I:\Patent\Bianchi\556.Response to Restriction Requirement